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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY

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Dear Josh,

Last Saturday evening (May 14) there was a one-hour program on Space Exploration on one of the major TV networks (NBC, I think). It was presented on a program called World Wide 60, a serious and sometimes excellent documentary program sponsored by the network. The show was evidently planned by, or with the close cooperation of, NASA. Glennan appeared on it and spoke at length, as did Jastrow and several other important space people. To my mind, it was a very foolish and harmful program. The ~~major~~ emphasis was on man-in-space. It was deliberately planned around the idea that the most interesting and important thing that can be done in space is to put a man--or, preferably, 50 men--into orbit. It was pointed out that man-in-space has the highest priority in the NASA space program. Nothing else seemed very important, except, of course, the possibility of communicating with intelligent beings on other planets. Quite a bit of time was spent on this. The possibility of detecting non-intelligent life was not mentioned, naturally. Nothing was too wacky for this program, including numerous drawing-board models for manned satellites, complete with space ferries, etc., etc. I may be wrong, but I think there was virtually nothing of scientific interest, or of genuine value for the public, in the whole hour. The cynical huckstering of phony objectives was shocking. It seems to me that the Space Science Board has a legitimate right to make the strongest representations to NASA, pointing out that these are not the objectives of scientists working on the space program, and that this method of "selling" space research to the public can only have the most harmful results.

With best regards, etc.


Norman Horowitz